

TESTIMONY OF

*THE CONNECTICUT MESSENGER COURIER ASSOCIATION
THE CONNECTICUT COALITION OF PROPERTY OWNERS
THE GREATER DANBURY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
THE LUMBER DEALERS' ASSOCIATION OF CONNECTICUT
THE MILFORD CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
THE NORTHWEST CONNECTICUT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
THE ALLIANCE OF CONNECTICUT YMCAS*

BEFORE THE
LEGISLATURE'S LABOR & PUBLIC EMPLOYEES COMMITTEE
2:00 PM, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2010
ROOM 2A, LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING

Good afternoon. My name is Marshall R. Collins. I am appearing in my capacity as Counsel for Government Relations for the aforementioned seven organizations (the "Organizations"). Collectively they represent more than 4,000 employers of approximately 135,000 men and women in Connecticut.

SB 63 AA Mandating Employers Provide Paid Sick Leave To Employees.

All employers know that to attract good employees and have a healthy workplace that paid sick leave is essential. However, in this deep recession, the imposition of a new mandate on struggling employers will hurt more people than help.

The extension of benefits to part-time workers is expensive. Even if the employee never uses the paid leave, the money to pay for that must be reserved. The cost is not inconsequential.

Non-profits would be particularly hard hit by this mandate. For example, you have heard today from the Northern Middlesex County YMCA how the extension of paid leave to their 269 part-time employees, who are lifeguards, exercise class instructors, and after school recreations workers would cost more than \$45,000 annually.

Many employers are struggling in difficult economy. This bill makes it even worse. Where will the money come from to pay the expense? Unlike the State, private sector employers cannot long survive if they operate at a deficit.

Options for for-profit companies include passing the increased cost through to customers, cutting expenses (that includes salaries and benefits), reducing operations or even closing. For non-profits the options unfortunately include reducing programming that often benefits the neediest members of our community.

Although the General Assembly has noted the importance of job creation as a means to balance our budget, this proposal will not create one job. In all likelihood, it will cost jobs.

This is not the time to mandate new expenses on employers. **The Organizations strongly oppose HB 6187.**

This completes my testimony. Thank you for your consideration.